



Willow Brook News

16th January 2023

head@willowbrook.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2023 and the Spring Term! The term has got off to an industrious start, which is why I've found myself on week 3 before I have had a chance to finish my first newsletter.

I hope that you have received a letter from your child's class teacher with full details of their curriculum plans for the weeks ahead. Our work across school has a geography focus this half term and will culminate in the Geography Mastermind competition on Friday 10th February! If you want to learn more about our plans and how we structure the primary curriculum in a Willow Brook way, please have a read on the school website <https://willowbrook.notts.sch.uk/parents/curriculum/>

It has been a joy to see so many children signing up to our Extra Curricular Clubs this term. These are designed to support subject learning by opening up interests and opportunities beyond lessons. Teachers and TA's give their time to add a little extra to different learning pathways. Our brilliant choir is off to the Birmingham Indoor Arena next week to sing with 5,000 other children at Young Voices thanks to Mrs Humphrey's energy. They will have a blast – it's an incredible experience!



The athletics season is also well under way and Mr. Clarke has proudly taken two teams to Rushcliffe tournaments. As always, Willow Brook teams represent the school with pride!

This afternoon, Nottingham Playhouse has been in to present their production of Goldilocks to our key stage 1 children. To have a professional company bring a story to life is just magical and I hope that the children can tell you all about their experience.





Salvation Army

Singing carols in the playground on the last day of term was a perfect way to start the Christmas break. The added snow 'surprise' hopefully gave the afternoon a festive feeling! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to hand over £365 to the Salvation Army. I know what a difference every penny will make to the work they do and I was delighted to give them Willow Brook's support.

Spring has been planted!

In a bid to get spring underway, the children have been out this week planting a huge sack of bulbs! The sun shone and the rain poured but the grassy area between Mr. Castledine's bungalow and the school is now teeming with daffodils that *may* survive and flower! The delight Year 1 showed with every worm they unearthed made it a great day in the garden!



Inset Days, Dates and School Closures

Just a reminder that Monday 20th February (the Monday after half term) is a school inset day. The only other inset day during this academic year is Friday 16th June.

One other advanced warning for your diary is this term's Parents Evenings which will take place on the week beginning March 8th. (Tuesday and Wednesday). Appointments will be arranged after half term.

You may be aware from the media that the National Education Union, one of the trade unions representing the teaching profession, has announced its intention to call its members to strike during February and March. To date I have not been made aware of any staff members who intend to take industrial action, but should that happen, I will work to ensure that this does not lead to class disruption or loss of learning at Willow Brook.

Finally, a thank you for all that you have done in response to the school's recent requests...

For making sure that your children are here in time... lateness has decreased dramatically... That makes such a difference to the start of the school day.

For leaving the bus stop and the area near our school crossing free of parked cars at key times... Whilst there was a very near miss from a car before Christmas, this is starting to show signs of improvement. I hope that we will continue to work together to take great care.

Here's to a happy and productive new year!

With kind regards,

Louise Ballard